

Application No.: 10/691,389
Amendment dated: April 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated: February 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 12-13, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 are rejected. Claims 3-4, 6-7, 15-17, 20, 22-23, and 28-30 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if placed in independent form.

No claims have been amended.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 12-13, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0087253 to Mahadev et al. (hereinafter "Mahadev").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 12-13, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mahadev. Mahadev discloses a system and method for processing a slider (*See Abstract*).

Applicants respectfully submit that Mahadev fails to teach or suggest an edge blending jig of an edge blending assembly to bond to a number of head sliders for edge blending, as claimed in claims 1, 18, and 31. For example, Mahadev states:

[0026] Referring to FIG. 6, a flow diagram of a method for processing a row of sliders according to an embodiment of the present invention is shown. In block 401, the row of sliders is fully diced using a part-off tool as known in the art. In this embodiment, the width of the cut is 150 μ m and the depth of the cut is 2 mm. In block 403, the row of sliders is engaged with the system of FIG. 5. For example, the part-off tool can be disposed underneath the plate upon which the system of FIG. 5 resides. After the partial dicing operation, the plate bearing the system of FIG. 5 can then be lowered onto the row of sliders so that the tape is placed between a desired pair of adjacent sliders. For example, a screw gauge can be used to fine tune the positioning of this system over the row of sliders. In such a configuration, a microscope can be placed above the system of FIG. 5 for observation of the abrading process.

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(Mahadev, Paragraph 26).

In other words, Mahadev describes the sliders being held in the part-off tool used to cut them. No mention is made of an edge blending jig. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that elements of claim 1, 18, and 31 are neither shown nor suggested by the cited reference. Claims 2, 5, 8-9, 12-13, 19, 21, 24, 26, and 27 depend from claims 1, 18, and 31. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 12-13, 18-19, 21, 24, 26, 27, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

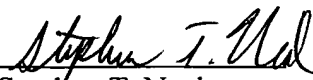
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 28, 2005

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